

## REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, and 3-11 are amended and new claims 12-19 are added. Claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1 and 3-19 are pending and under consideration.

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Independent claims 1, 10 and 11 are amended to recite that an information distribution/distribution system, a computer-readable storage storing a program for controlling a computer to retrieve/distribute information, and a method for information retrieval/distribution, respectively, include a one database management unit managing a plurality of databases and registering kinds of plurality of databases as management information and, when the information retrieval is requested by an information retrieval request source, the one database management unit retrieves the plurality of databases to collect the required information, and then converts the data format of the collected information into a unified format and distributes the collected information to the information retrieval request source. (See, for example pages 18-19, starting at line 11).

Dependent claims 3-9 are amended to correspond to parent claims 1.

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

## NEW CLAIMS

New dependent claims 12-19 present no new matter and are provided to afford a varying scope of protection.

Claim 12 recites a method of information retrieval/distribution includes requesting an other database management unit to retrieve the information in the databases managed by the other database management unit followed by receiving the result of the retrieval of the information from the other database management unit to distribute the result to the information retrieval request source by the one database management unit. (See, for example, pages 14-17 starting at line 17, and FIGs. 4 and 6-11).

Claim 13 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes including the list of the management information possessed by the other database management unit in the management information of said one database management unit by the one manager, comparing the management information of the database management unit that has been newly requested to retrieve the required information by said one database management unit with the

management information of said one database management unit to obtain the difference between said both management information by the one manager, updating the management information of said one database management unit, based on said difference or communicates with said other database management unit periodically, by the one manager, and exchanging the management information with said other database management unit each other to update the management information of said one database management unit by the one manager. (See, for example, pages 14-17 starting at line 17, and FIGs. 4 and 6-11).

Claim 14 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes making category information that defines the categories of the databases managed by said one database management unit by the one database management unit, and designating a database management unit managing the database in the same category to exchange the information with said database management unit, based on said category information by the one database management unit. (See, for example, pages 14-17 starting at line 17, and FIGs. 4 and 6-11).

Claim 15 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes designating retrieving items of the information in the databases managed by said one database management unit through the retrieving screen of said information retrieval request unit said one database management unit said one database management unit, requesting said other database management unit to retrieve the information in the databases managed by said other database management unit by said one database management unit. (See, for example, pages 14-17 starting at line 17, and FIGs. 4 and 6-11).

Claim 16 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes requesting automatically said other database management unit managing the database in which the information related to said retrieval criterion is stored, to retrieve said information, in the case in which said one database management unit does not designate any retrieving item through the retrieving screen of said information retrieval request unit by said one database management unit. (See, for example, pages 14-17 starting at line 17, and FIGs. 4 and 6-11).

Claim 17 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes designating a category through the retrieving screen of said information retrieval request unit said one database management unit, and connecting said one database management unit automatically to said other database management unit managing the database in said category to select said database in said category by said one database management unit. (See, for example, pages 14-17 starting at line 17, and FIGs. 4 and 6-11).

Claim 18 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes registering the

retrieval information of said information retrieval request source by said one database management unit, executing the same retrieval periodically, based on said retrieval information said one database management unit, and sending the result of the retrieval to said information retrieval request source said one database management unit. (See, for example, pages 14-17 starting at line 17, and FIGs. 4 and 6-11).

Claim 19 recites an information retrieval/distribution system includes a plurality of databases and a plurality of database management units managing databases in which several kinds of information are stored wherein one database management unit of a plurality of database management units manages a plurality of databases and registering kinds of the plurality of databases as management information and, when information retrieval is requested by an information retrieval request source, the one database management unit retrieves the plurality of databases to collect the required information, and then converts the data format of the collected information into a unified format and distributes the collected information to the information retrieval request source. (See, for example pages 18-19, starting at line 11).

No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the new claims are respectfully requested.

**PAGES 2-6: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-11 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) BY JONES (U.S.P. 6,381,599)**

As provided in MPEP §706.02 entitled Rejection on Prior Art, anticipation requires that the reference must teach every aspect of a claimed invention. Jones does not support an anticipatory-type rejection by not describing features recited in the present application's independent claims.

According to aspects of the present invention each of the database management units converts information from the databases into information in a unified data format. Therefore, one advantage of the present invention is that, as opposed to conventional apparatus and method, it is not necessary for a user to convert the format of the distributed information every time the user gets the information.

In a conventional information retrieval/distribution system, such as taught by Jones necessary information is retrieved by using an information retrieval tool, such as a search engine, on the Internet.

**One Database Management Unit Retrieving Plurality Of Databases To Collect Required Information And Converting Data Format Of Collected Information Into Unified Format And Distributing Collected Information To Information Retrieval Request Source Not Described By Jones**

Independent claims 1, 8, and 11 recite an information retrieval/distribution system, a

computer-readable storage storing a program for controlling a computer to retrieve/distribute information, and a method for information retrieval/distribution, respectively, that include one database management unit that manages a plurality of databases and registers kinds of the plurality of databases as management information and, when the information retrieval is requested by the information retrieval request source, the one database management unit retrieves the plurality of databases to collect the required information, and then converts the data format of the collected information into a unified format and distributes the collected information to said information retrieval request source.

These features are not described, taught, or suggested by Jones et al. that just teaches (See, for example, FIGs. 1 and 2) a system and method for integrating Internet resources, in which various kinds of information, available from a World Wide Web (WWW) based interactive front end i.e., web browser 18 are searched and accessed through the internet. Jones teaches (col. 6, starting at line 38) a database of file objects available from numerous sources are stored in an information repository 20. The database 20 is updated periodically in order to ensure the accuracy and completeness thereof.

As taught by Jones (cols. 5-6, starting at line 64), when a user makes a request for retrieving specific information through a CIM interactive front end, information associated with the requested information can be accessed and retrieved from sources in a database by using a search engine. However, in a conventional information retrieval/distribution system as taught by Jones, necessary information is retrieved by using information retrieval tools, such as a search engines, on the Internet.

Jones does not teach the one database management unit as recited in the present applications independent claims.

## **Conclusion**

Claim 2 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Since Jones does not describe, teach or suggest features recited in independent claims 1, 10, 11 (all as amended) and dependent claims 3-9, the rejections should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

## **NEW CLAIMS**

Claim 12 recites a method of information retrieval/distribution includes requesting an other database management unit to retrieve the information in the databases managed by the other database management unit followed by receiving the result of the retrieval of the

information from the other database management unit to distribute the result to the information retrieval request source by the one database management unit. Claim 13 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes including the list of the management information possessed by the other database management unit in the management information of said one database management unit by the one manager

Claim 14 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes making category information that defines the categories of the databases managed by said one database management unit by the one database management unit. Claim 15 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes designating retrieving items of the information in the databases managed by said one database management unit through the retrieving screen of said information retrieval request unit said one database management unit said one database management unit.

Claim 16 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes requesting automatically said other database management unit managing the database in which the information related to said retrieval criterion is stored, to retrieve said information, in the case in which said one database management unit does not designate any retrieving item through the retrieving screen of said information retrieval request unit by said one database management unit. Claim 17 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes designating a category through the retrieving screen of said information retrieval request unit said one database management unit. Claim 18 recites the method of information retrieval/distribution includes registering the retrieval information of said information retrieval request source by said one database management .

Claim 19 recites an information retrieval/distribution system includes a one database management unit retrieves said plurality of databases to collect the required information, and then converts the data format of the collected information into a unified format and distributes the collected information to said information retrieval request source. (See, for example pages 18-19, starting at line 11).

Claims 12-19 patentably distinguish over the cited references and are submitted to be allowable for the recitations therein.

### **Conclusion**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is

requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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